

## Claims

- [c1] A method for producing documents in a legal proceeding, the method comprising:  
converting a set of files to a common electronic file type in a directory tree; and electronically stamping each file with a bates stamp.
- [c2] The method of claim [1] further including the step of preserving the directory tree on a CD ROM.
- [c3] The method of placing a bates stamp on an electronic document, the method comprising: using a stamping mechanism to place a bates stamp on each page of a file; incrementing the bates stamp for each page of said file; and preserving the next bates stamp number for use by a subsequent file.
- [c4] The method of claim [3] further comprising of the logging of information on the bates stamping in a file.
- [c5] The method of claim [3] wherein the stamping, incrementing, and preserving are performed on multiple files.
- [c6] The method of claim [5] wherein the multiple files are contained in a directory tree.
- [c7] A computer program for electronically placing bates stamps on one or more documents, comprising: software instructions to place a bates stamp on each page of each document; instructions to increment the bates stamp for each page, wherein the incrementing bates numbers are continued through each successive document.
- [c8] The computer program in claim [7] further including instructions to create a log file of each document that is bates stamped.
- [c9] The computer program in claim [7] further including instructions to place the bates stamps on a directory tree of documents.